PUBLIC LAW 96-551 - DEC. 19, 1980

Public Law 96-551
96th Congress

An Act

To grant the consent of the Congress to the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, and to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and others to cooperate with the planning agency thereby created.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to encourage the wise use and conservation of the waters of Lake Tahoe and of the resources of the area around said lake, the consent of the Congress is hereby given to the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact heretofore adopted by the States of California and Nevada, which compact reads a follows:

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING COMPACT
ARTICLE I. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS OF POLICY

(a) It is found and declared that:

(1) The waters of Lake Tahoe and other resources of the region are threatened with deterioration or degeneration, which endangers the natural beauty and economic productivity of the region.

(2) The public and private interests and investments in the region are substantial.

(3) The region exhibits unique environmental and ecological values which are irreplaceable.

(4) By virtue of the special conditions and circumstances of the region's natural ecology, developmental pattern, population distribution and human needs, the region

is experiencing problems of resource use and deficiencies of environmental control.

(5) Increasing urbanization is threatening the ecological values of the region and threatening the public opportunities for use of the public lands.

(6) Maintenance of the social and economic health of the region depends on maintaining the significant scenic, recreational, educational, scientific, natural and public health values provided by the Lake Tahoe Basin.

(7) There is a public interest in protecting, preserving and enhancing these values for the residents of the region and for visitors to the region.

(8) Responsibilities for providing recreational and scientific opportunities, preserving scenic and natural areas, and safeguarding the public who live, work and play in or visit the region are divided among local governments, regional agencies, the States of California and Nevada, and the federal government.

(9) In recognition of the public investment and multistate and national significance of the recreational values, the federal government has an interest in the acquisition of recreational property and the management of resources in the region to preserve environmental and recreational values, and the federal government should assist the states in fulfilling their responsibilities.

(10) In order to preserve the scenic beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities of the region, there is a need to insure an equilibrium between the region's natural endowment and its manmade environment.

(b) In order to enhance the efficiency and governmental effectiveness of the region, it is imperative that there be established a Tahoe Regional Planning Agency with the powers conferred by this compact including the power to establish environmental threshold carrying capacities and to adopt and enforce a regional plan and implementing ordinances which will achieve and maintain such capacities

while providing opportunities for orderly growth and development consistent with such capacities.

(c) The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency shall interpret and administer its plans, ordinances, rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of this compact.

ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this compact, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) "Region," includes Lake Tahoe, the adjacent parts of Douglas and Washoe Counties and Carson City, which for the purposes of this compact shall be deemed a county lying within the Tahoe Basin in the State of Nevada, and the adjacent parts of the Counties of Placer and El Dorado lying within the Tahoe Basin in the State of California, and that additional and adjacent part of the County of Placer outside of the Tahoe Basin in the State of California which lies southward and eastward of a line starting at the intersection of the basin crestline and the north boundary of Section 1, thence west to the northwest corner of Section 3, thence south to the intersection of the basin crestline and the west boundary of Section 10; all sections referring to Township 15 north, Range 16 east, M.D.B. & M. The region defined and described herein shall be as precisely delineated on official maps of the agency.

(b) "Agency" means the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

(c) "Governing body"means the governing board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

(d) "Regional plan" means the long-term general plan for the development of the region.

(e) "Planning commission" means the advisory planning commission appointed pursuant to subdivision (h) of Article III.

(f) "Gaming" means to deal, operate, carry on, conduct, maintain or expose for play any banking or percentage game played with cards, dice or any mechanical device or machine for money, property, checks, credit or any representative of value, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, faro, monte, roulette, keno, bingo, fan-tan, twenty-one, blackjack, seven-and-a-half, big injun, klondike, craps, stud poker, draw poker or slot machine, but does not include social games played solely for drinks, or cigars or cigarettes served individually, games played in private homes or residences for prizes or games operated by charitable or educational organizations, to the extent excluded by applicable State law.

(g) "Restricted gaming license" means a license to operate not more than 15 slot machines on which a quarterly fee is charged pursuant to NRS 463.373 and no other games.

(h) "Project" means an activity undertaken by any person, including any pubic agency, if the activity may substantially affect the land, water, air, space or any other natural resources of the region.

(i) "Environmental threshold carrying capacity" means an environmental standard necessary to maintain a significant scenic, recreational, educational, scientific or natural value of the region or to maintain pubic health and safety within the region. Such standards shall include but not be limited to standards for air quality, water quality, soil conservation, vegetation preservation and noise.

(j) "Feasible" means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social and technological factors.

(k) "Areas open to pubic use" means all of the areas within a structure housing gaming under a nonrestricted license except areas devoted to the private use of guests.

(l) "Areas devoted to private use of guests" means hotel rooms and hallways to serve hotel room areas, and any

parking areas. A hallway serves hotel room areas if more than 50 percent of the areas of each side of the hallway are hotel rooms.

(m) "Nonrestricted license" means a gaming license which is not a restricted gaming license.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

(a) There is created the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency as a separate legal entity.

The governing body of the agency shall be constituted as follows:

(1) California delegation:

(A) One member appointed by each of the County Boards of Supervisors of the Counties of El Dorado and Placer and one member appointed by the City Council of the City of South Lake Tahoe. Any such member may be a member of the county board of supervisors or city council, respectively, and shall reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the governmental body making the appointment.

(B) Two members appointed by the Governor of California, one member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly of California and one member appointed by the Senate Rules Committee of the State of California. The members appointed pursuant to this subparagraph shall not be resident of the region and shall represent the public at large within the State of California A member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly or the Senate Rules Committee may, subject to confirmation by his or her appointing power, designate an alternate to attend meetings and vote in the absence of the appointed member.

The designation of a named alternate, which shall be in writing and contain evidence of confirmation by the appointing power, shall be kept on file with the agency. An appointed member may change his or her alternate from time to time, with the confirmation of the appointing power, but shall have only one designated alternate at a time. An alternate shall be subject to those qualifications and requirements prescribed by this compact that are applicable to the appointed member.

(2) Nevada delegation:

(A) One member appointed by each of the boards of county commissioners of Douglas and Washoe Counties and one member appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Carson City. Any such member may be a member of the board of county commissioners or board of supervisors, respectively, and shall reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the governmental body making the appointment.

(B) Two members appointed by the Governor of Nevada, one member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the Nevada Senate. All members appointed pursuant to this subparagraph shall not be residents of the region and shall represent a pubic at large within the State of Nevada. A member appointed by the Speaker of the Nevada Assembly or the Majority Leader of the Nevada Senate may, subject to confirmation by his or her appointing power, designate an alternate to attend meetings and vote in the absence of the appointed member. The designation of a named alternate, which shall be in writing and contain evidence of confirmation

by the appointing power, shall be kept on file with the agency. An appointed member may change his or her alternate from time to time, with the confirmation of the appointing power, but shall have only one designated alternate at a time. An alternate shall be subject to those qualifications and requirements prescribed by this compact that are applicable to the appointed member.

(3) If any appointing authority under paragraph (1)(A), (1)(B), (2)(A) or (2)(B) fails to make such an appointment within 60 days after the effective date of the amendments to this compact or the occurrence of a vacancy on the governing body, the governor of the state in which the appointing authority is located shall make the appointment. The term of any member so appointed shall be 1 year.

(4) The position of any member of the governing body shall be deemed vacant if such a member is absent from three consecutive meetings of the governing body in any calendar year.

(5) Each member and employee of the agency shall disclose his economic interests in the region within 10 days after taking his seat on the governing board or being employed by the agency and shall thereafter disclose any further economic interest which he acquires, as soon as feasible after he acquires it. As used in this paragraph, "economic interests" means:

(A) Any business entity operating in the region in which the member or employee has a direct or indirect investment worth more than one thousand dollars ($1,000).

(B) Any real property located in the region in which the member or employee has

a direct or indirect interest worth more than one thousand dollars ($1,000).

(C) Any source of income attributable to activities in the region, other than loans by or deposits with a commercial lending institution in the regular course of business, aggregating two hundred fifty dollars ($250) or more in value received by or promised to the member within the preceding 12 months; or

(D) Any business entity operating in the region in which the member or employee is a director officer, partner, trustee, employee or holds any position of management.

No member or employee of the agency shall make, or attempt to influence, an agency decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has an economic interest. Members and employees of the agency must disqualify themselves from making or participating in the making of any decision of the agency when it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material financial effect, distinguishable from its effect on the public generally, on the economic interest of the member or employee.

(b) The members of the agency shall serve without compensation, but the expense of each member shall be met by the body which he represents in accordance with the law of that body. All other expenses incurred by the government body in the course of exercising the powers conferred upon it by this compact unless met in some other manner specifically provided, shall be paid by the agency out of its own funds.

(c) The members of the governing body serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority in each case, but each appointment shall be reviewed no less often than every 4 years. Members may be reappointed.

(d) The governing body of the agency shall meet at least monthly. All meetings shall be opened to the pubic to the extent required by the law of the State of California or the State of Nevada, whichever imposes the greater requirement, applicable to local governments at the time such meeting is held. The government body shall fix a date for its regular monthly meeting in such terms as "the first Monday of each month," and shall not change such date more often than once in any calendar year. Notice of the date so fixed shall be given by publication at least once in a newspaper or combination of newspapers whose circulation is general throughout the region and in each county a portion of whose territory lies within the region. Notice of any special meeting, except an emergency meeting, shall be given by so publishing the date and place and posting an agenda at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

(e) The position of a member of the governing body shall be considered vacated upon his loss of any of the qualifications required for his appointment and in such event the appointing authority shall appoint a successor.

(f) The governing body shall elect from its own members a chairman and vice chairman, whose terms of office shall be 2 years, and who may be reelected. If a vacancy occurs in either office, the governing body may fill such vacancy for the unexpired term.

(g) Four of the members of the governing body from each state constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the agency. The voting procedures shall be as follows:

> (1) For adopting, amending or repealing environmental threshold carrying capacities, the regional plan, and ordinances, rules and regulations, and for granting variances from the ordinances, rules and regulations, the vote of at least four of the members of the other state shall be required to take action. If there is no vote of at least four of the members from one state agreeing with the vote of at least four of the members of the

other state on the actions specified in this paragraph, an action of rejection shall be deemed to have been taken.

(2) For approving a project, the affirmative vote of at least five members from the state in which the project is located and the affirmative vote of at least nine members of the governing body are required. If at least five members of the governing body from the state in which the project is located and at least nine members of the entire governing body do not vote in favor of the project, upon a motion for approval, an action of rejection shall be deemed to have been taken. A decision by the agency to approve a project shall be supported by a statement of findings, adopted by the agency, which indicates that the project complies with the regional plan and with applicable ordinances, rules and regulations of the agency.

(3) For routine business and for directing the agency's staff on litigation and enforcement actions, at least eight members of the governing body must agree to take action. If at least eight votes in favor of such action are not cast, an action of rejection shall be deemed to have been taken.

Whenever under the provisions of this compact or any ordinance, rule, regulation or policy adopted pursuant thereto, the agency is required to review or approve any project, public or private, the agency shall take final action by vote, whether to approve, to require modification or to reject such project, within 180 days after the application for such project is accepted as complete by the agency in compliance with the agency's rules and regulations governing such delivery unless the applicant has agreed to an extension of this time limit. If a final action by vote does not take place within 180 days, the applicant may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to compel a vote unless he has agreed to an extension. This provision does not limit the right of any

person to obtain judicial review of agency action under subdivision (h) of Article VI. The vote of each member of the governing body shall be individually recorded. The governing body shall adopt its own rules, regulations and procedures.

(h) An advisory planning commission shall be appointed by the agency. The commission shall include: the chief planning officers of Placer County, El Dorado County, and the City of South Lake Tahoe in California and of Douglas County, Washoe County and Carson City in Nevada, the executive officer of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board of the State of California, the executive officer of the Air Resources Board of the State of California, the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources of the State of Nevada, the Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection in the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources of the State of Nevada, the Administrator of the Lake Tahoe Management Unit of the United States Forest Service, and at least four lay members with an equal number from each state, at least half of whom shall be residents of the region. Any official member may designate an alternate.

The term of office of each lay member of the advisory planning commission shall be 2 years. Members may be reappointed.

The position of each member of the advisory planning commission shall be considered vacated upon loss of any of the qualifications required or appointment, and in such an event the appointing authority shall appoint a successor.

The advisory planning commission shall elect from its own members a chairman, whose terms of office shall be 2 years and who may be reelected. If a vacancy occurs in either office, the advisory planning commission shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired term.

A majority of the members of the advisory planning commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of the business of the commission. A majority vote of the quorum

present shall be required to take action with respect to any matter.

(i) The agency shall establish and maintain an office within the region, and for this purpose the agency may rent or own property and equipment. Every plan, ordinance and other record of the agency which is of such nature as to constitute a public record under the law of either the State of California or the State of Nevada shall be opened to inspection and copying during regular office hours.

(j) Each authority charged under this compact or by the law of either state with the duty of appointing a member of the government body of the agency shall by certified copy of its resolution or other action notify the Secretary of State of its own state of the action taken.

ARTICLE IV. PERSONNEL

(a) The governing body shall determine the qualification of, and it shall appoint and fix the salary of, the executive officer of the agency, and shall employ such other staff and legal counsel as may be necessary to execute the powers and functions provided for under this compact or in accordance with any intergovernmental contracts or agreements the agency may be responsible for administering.

(b) Agency personnel standards and regulations shall conform insofar as possible to the regulations and procedures of the civil service of the State of California or the State of Nevada, as may be determined by the governing body of the agency; and shall be regional and bistate in application and effect; provided that the governing may, for administrative convenience and at its discretion, assign the administration of designated personnel arrangements to an agency of either state, and provided that administratively convenient adjustments be made in the standards and regulations governing personnel assigned under intergovernmental agreements.

(c) The agency may establish and maintain or participate in such additional programs of employee benefits as may be appropriate to afford employees of the agency terms and conditions of employment similar to those enjoyed by employees of California and Nevada generally.

ARTICLE V. PLANNING

(a) In preparing each of the plans required by this article and each amendment thereto, if any, subsequent to its adoption, the planning commission after due notice shall hold at least one public hearing which may be continued from time to time, and shall review the testimony and any written recommendations presented at such hearing before recommending the plan or amendment. The notice required by this subdivision shall be given at least 20 days prior to the public hearing by publication at least once in a newspaper or combination of newspapers whose circulation is general throughout the region and in each county a portion of whose territory lies within the region.

The planning commission shall then recommend such plan or amendment to the governing body for adoption by ordinance. The governing body may adopt, modify or reject the proposed plan or amendment, or may initiate and adopt a plan or amendment without referring it to the planning commission. If the governing body initiates or substantially modifies a plan or amendment, it shall hold at least one public hearing thereon after due notice as required in this subdivision.

If a request is made for the amendment of the regional plan by:

(1) A political subdivision a part of whose territory would be affected by such amendment; or

(2) The owner or lessee of real property which would be affected by such amendment,

the governing body shall complete its action on such amendment within 180 days after such request is accepted as complete according to standards which must be prescribed by ordinance of the agency.

(b) The agency shall develop, in cooperation with the States of California and Nevada, environmental threshold carrying capacities for the region. The agency should request the President's Council on Environmental Quality, the U.S. Forest Service and other appropriate agencies to assist in developing such environmental threshold carrying capacities. Within 18 months after the effective date of the amendments to this compact, the agency shall adopt environmental threshold carrying capacities for the region.

(c) Within 1 year after the adoption of the environmental threshold carrying capacities for the region, the agency shall amend the regional plan so that, at a minimum, the plan and all of its elements, as implemented through agency ordinances, rules and regulations, achieves and maintains the adopted environmental threshold carrying capacities. Each element of the plan shall contain implementation provisions and time schedules for such implementation by ordinance. The planning commission and governing body shall continuously review and maintain the regional plan. The regional plan shall consist of a diagram, or diagrams, and text, or texts setting forth the projects and proposals for implementation of the regional plan, a description of the needs and goals of the region and statement of the policies, standards and elements of the regional plan.

The regional plan shall be a single enforceable plan and include all of the following correlated elements:

(1) A land-use plan for the integrated arrangement and general location and extent of, and the criteria and standards for, the uses of land, water, air, space and other natural resources within the region, including but not limited to, an indication or allocation of maximum population densities and permitted uses.

(2) A transportation plan for the integrated development of a regional system of transportation, including but not limited to parkways, highways, transportation facilities, transit routes, waterways, navigation facilities, public transportation facilities, bicycle facilities, and appurtenant terminals and facilities for the movement of people and goods within the region. The goal of transportation planning shall be:

(A) To reduce dependency on the automobile by making more effective use of existing transportation modes and of public transit to move people and goods within the region, and

(B) To reduce to the extent feasible air pollution which is caused by motor vehicles.

Where increases in capacity are required, the agency shall give preference to providing such capacity through public transportation and public programs and projects related to transportation. The agency shall review and consider all existing transportation plans in preparing its regional transportation plan pursuant to this paragraph.

The plan shall provide for an appropriate transit system for the region.

The plan shall give consideration to:

(A) Completion of the Loop Road in the States of Nevada and California;

(B) Utilization of a light rail mass transit system in the South Shore area; and

(C) Utilization of a transit terminal in the Kingsbury Grade area.

Until the regional plan is revised, or a new transportation plan is adopted in accordance with this paragraph, the agency has no effective transportation plan.

(3) A conservation plan for the preservation, development, utilization, and management of the scenic and other natural resources within the basin, including but not limited to, soils, shoreline and submerged lands, scenic corridors along transportation routes, open spaces, recreational and historical facilities.

(4) A recreation plan for the development, utilization, and management of the recreational resources of the region, including but not limited to, wilderness and forested lands, parks and parkways, riding and hiking trails, beaches and playgrounds, marinas, areas for skiing and other recreational facilities.

(5) A public services and facilities plan for the general location, scale and provision of public services and facilities, which, by the nature of their function, size, extent and other characteristics are necessary or appropriate for inclusion in the regional plan.

In formulating and maintaining the regional plan, the planning commission and governing body shall take account of and shall seek to harmonize the needs of the region as a whole, the plans of the counties and cities within the region, the plans and planning activities of the state, federal and other public agencies and nongovernmental agencies and organizations which affect or are concerned with planning and development within the region.

(d) The regional plan shall provide for attaining and maintaining federal, state, or local air and water quality standards, whichever are strictest, in the respective portions of the region for which the standards are applicable.

The agency may, however, adopt air or water quality standards or control measures more stringent than the applicable state implementation plan or the applicable federal, state, or local standards for the region, if it finds that such additional standards or control measures are necessary to

achieve the purposes of this compact. Each element of the regional plan, where applicable, shall, by ordinance, identify the means and time schedule by which air and water quality standards will be attained.

(e) Except for the Regional Transportation Plan of the California Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the regional plan, ordinances, rules and regulations adopted by the California Tahoe Regional Planning Agency in effect on July 1, 1980, shall be the regional plan, ordinances, rules and regulations of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for the portion of the Tahoe region located in the State of California. Such plan, ordinance, rule or regulation may be amended or repealed by the governing body of the agency. The plans, ordinances, rules and regulations of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency that do not conflict with, or are not addressed by, the California Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's plans, ordinances, rules and regulations referred to in this subdivision shall continue to be applicable unless amended or repealed by the governing body of the agency. No provision of the regional plan, ordinances, rules and regulations of the California Tahoe Regional Planning Agency referred to in this subdivision shall apply to that portion of the region within the State of Nevada, unless such provision is adopted for the Nevada portion of the region by the governing body of the agency.

(f) The regional plan, ordinances, rules and regulations of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency apply to that portion of the region within the State of Nevada.

(g) The agency shall adopt ordinances prescribing specific written findings that the agency must make prior to approving any project in the region. These findings shall relate to environmental protection and shall insure that the project under review will not adversely affect implementation of the regional plan and will not cause the adopted environmental threshold carrying capacities of the region to be exceeded.

(h) The agency shall maintain the data, maps and other information developed in the course of formulating and administering the regional plan, in a form suitable to assure a consistent view of developmental trends and other relevant information for the availability of and use by other agencies of government and by private organizations and individuals concerned.

(i) Where necessary for the realization of the regional plan, the agency may engage in collaborative planning with local governmental jurisdictions located outside the region, but contiguous to its boundaries. In formulating and implementing the regional plan, the agency shall seek the cooperation and consider the recommendations of counties and cities and other agencies of local government, of state and federal agencies, of educational institutions and research organizations, whether public or private, and of civic groups and private persons.

ARTICLE VI. AGENCY'S POWERS

(a) The governing body shall adopt all necessary ordinances, rules, and regulations to effectuate the adopted regional plan. Except as otherwise provided in this compact, every such ordinance, rule or regulation shall establish a minimum standard applicable throughout the region. Any political subdivision or public agency may adopt and enforce an equal or higher requirement applicable to the same subject of regulation in its territory. The regulations of the agency shall contain standards including but not limited to the following: Water purity and clarity; subdivision; zoning; tree removal; solid waste disposal; sewage disposal; land fills, excavations, cuts and grading; piers, harbors, breakwaters or channels and other shoreline developments; waste disposal in shoreline areas; waste disposal from boats; mobile-home parks; house relocation; outdoor advertising; flood plain protection; soil and sedimentation control; air pollution; and watershed protection. Whenever possible without diminish-

ing the effectiveness of the regional plan, the ordinances, rules, regulations and policies shall be confined to matters which are general and regional in application, leaving to the jurisdiction of the respective states, counties and cities the enactment of specific and local ordinances, rules, regulations and policies which conform to the regional plan.

The agency shall prescribe by ordinance those activities which it has determined will not have substantial effect on the land, water, air, space or any other natural resources in the region and therefore will be exempt from its review and approval.

Every ordinance adopted by the agency shall be published at least once by title in a newspaper or combination of newspapers whose circulation is general throughout the region. Except an ordinance adopting or amending the regional plan, no ordinance shall become effective until 60 days after its adoption. Immediately after its adoption, a copy of each ordinance shall be transmitted to the governing body of each political subdivision having territory within the region.

(b) No project other than those to be reviewed and approved under the special provisions of subdivisions (d), (e), (f) and (g) may be developed in the region without obtaining the review and approval of the agency and no project may be approved unless it is found to comply with the regional plan and with the ordinances, rules and regulations enacted pursuant to subdivision (a) to effectuate that plan. The agency may approve a project in the region only after making the written findings required by this subdivision or subdivision (g) of Article V. Such findings shall be based on substantial evidence in the record.

Before adoption by the agency of the ordinances required in subdivision (g) of Article V, the agency may approve a project in the region only after making written findings on the basis of substantial evidence in the record that the project is consistent with the regional plan then in effect and with applicable plans, ordinances, regulations and standards of federal and state agencies relating to the protection, mainte-

nance and enhancement of environmental quality in the region.

(c) The Legislatures of the States of California and Nevada find that in order to make effective the regional plan as revised by the agency, it is necessary to halt temporarily works of development in the region which might otherwise absorb the entire capability of the region for further development or direct it out of harmony with the ultimate plan. Subject to the limitation provided in this subdivision, from the effective date of the amendments to this compact until the regional plan is amended pursuant to subdivision (c) of Article V, or until May 1, 1983, whichever is earlier:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, no new subdivision, planned unit development, or condominium project may be approved unless a complete tentative map or plan has been approved before the effective date of the amendments to this compact by all agencies having jurisdiction. The subdivision of land owned by a general improvement district, which existed and owned the land before the effective date of the amendments to this compact, may be approved if subdivision of the land is necessary to avoid insolvency of the district.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), no apartment building may be erected unless the required permits for such building have been secured from all agencies having jurisdiction, prior to the effective date of the amendments to this compact.

(3) During each of the calendar years 1980, 1981, and 1982 no city or county may issue building permits which authorize the construction of the greater number of new residential units within the region than were authorized within the region by building permits issued by that city or county during calendar year 1978. For the period of

January through April, 1983 building permits authorizing the construction of no more than 1/3 of that number may be issued by each such city or county. For purposes of this paragraph a "residential unit" means either a single family residence or an individual residential unit within a larger building, such as an apartment building, a duplex or a condominium.

The Legislatures find the respective numbers of residential units authorized within the region during calendar year 1978 to be a follows:

1. City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County (combined).....252
2. Placer County.....278
3. Carson City 0
4. Douglas County 339
5. Washoe County 739

(4) During each of the calendar years 1980, 1981 and 1982, no city or county may issue building permits which authorize construction of a greater square footage of new commercial buildings within the region than were authorized within the region by building permits for commercial purposes issued by that city or county during the calendar year 1978. For the period of January through April, 1983 building permits authorizing the construction of no more than 1/3 the amount of that square footage may be issued by each such city or county.

The Legislatures find the respective square footages of commercial buildings authorized within the region during calendar year 1978 to be as follows:

1. City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County (combined) 64,324
2. Placer County 23,000
3. Carson City 0
4. Douglas County 57,354
5. Washoe County 50,600

(5) No structure may be erected to house gaming under a nonrestricted license.

(6) No facility for the treatment of sewage may be constructed or enlarged except:

(A) To comply, as ordered by the appropriate state agency for the control of water pollution, with existing limitations of effluence under the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq., and the applicable state law for control of water pollution; or

(B) To accommodate development which is not prohibited or limited by this subdivision; or

(C) In the case of Douglas County Sewer District #1, to modify or otherwise alter sewage treatment facilities existing on the effective date of the amendments to this compact so that such facilities will be able to treat the total volume of effluence for which they were originally designed which is 3.0 mgd. Such modification or alteration is not a "project"; is not subject to the requirements of Article VII; and does not require a permit from the agency. Before commencing such modification or alternative, however, the district shall submit to the agency its report identifying any significant soil erosion problems which may be caused by such modifications or alterations

and the measures which the district proposes to take to mitigate or avoid such problems.

The moratorium imposed by this subdivision does not apply to work done pursuant to a right vested before the effective date of the amendments to this compact. Notwithstanding the expiration date of the moratorium imposed by this subdivision, no new highway may be built or existing highway widened to accommodate additional continuous lanes for automobiles until the regional transportation plan is revised and adopted.

The moratorium imposed by this subdivision does not apply to the construction of any parking garage which has been approved by the agency prior to May 4, 1979, whether that approval was affirmative or by default. The provisions of this paragraph are not an expression of legislative intent that any such parking garage, the approval of which is the subject of litigation which was pending on the effective date of the amendments to this compact, should, or should not, be constructed. The provisions of this paragraph are intended solely to permit construction of such a parking garage if judgment sustaining the agency's approval to construct that parking garage has become final and no appeal is pending or may lawfully be taken to a higher court.

(d) Subject to the final order of any court of competent jurisdiction entered in litigation contesting the validity of an approval by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, whether that approval was affirmative or by default, if that litigation was pending on May 4, 1979, the agency and the States of California and Nevada shall recognize as a permitted and conforming use:

(1) Every structure housing gaming under a nonrestricted license which existed as a licensed gaming establishment on May 4, 1979, or whose construction was approved by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency affirmatively or deemed approved before that date. The construction or use of any structure to house gaming under a nonrestricted

license not so existing or approved, or the enlargement in cubic volume of any such existing or approved structure is prohibited.

(2) Every other nonrestricted gaming establishment whose use was seasonal and whose license was issued before May 4, 1979, for the same season and for the number and type of games and slot machines on which taxes or fees were paid in the calendar year 1978.

(3) Gaming conducted pursuant to a restricted gaming license issued before May 4, 1979, to the extent permitted by the license on that date.

The area within any structure housing gaming under a nonrestricted license which may be open to public use (as distinct from that devoted to the private use of guests and exclusive of any parking area) is limited to the area existing or approved for public use on May 4, 1979. Within these limits, any external modification of the structure which requires a permit from a local government also requires approval from the agency. The agency shall not permit restaurants, convention facilities, showrooms or other public areas to be constructed elsewhere in the region outside the structure in order to replace areas existing or approved for public use on May 4, 1979.

(e) Any structure housing licensed gaming may be rebuilt or replaced to a size not to exceed the cubic volume, height and land coverage existing or approved on May 4, 1979, without the review or approval of the agency or any planning or regulatory authority of the State of Nevada whose review or approval would be required for a new structure.

(f) The following provisions apply to any internal or external modification, remodeling, change in use, or repair of a structure housing gaming under a nonrestricted license which is not prohibited by article VI(d):

(1) The agency's review of an external modification of the structure which requires a permit from a local government is limited to determining whether the external modification will do any of the following:

(A) Enlarge the cubic volume of the structure;

(B) Increase the total square footage of area open to or approved for public use on May 4, 1979;

(C) Convert an area devoted to the private use of guests to an area open to public use;

(D) Increase the public area open to public use which is used for gaming beyond the limits contained in paragraph (3); and

(E) Conflict with or be subject to the provisions of any of the agency's ordinances that are generally applicable throughout the region.

The agency shall make this determination within 60 days after the proposal is delivered to the agency in compliance with the agency's rules or regulations governing such delivery unless the applicant has agreed to an extension of this time limit. If an external modification is determined to have any of the effects enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (C), it is prohibited. If an external modification is determined to have any of the effects enumerated in subparagraphs (D) or (E), it is subject to the applicable provisions of this compact. If an external modification is determined to have no such effect, it is not subject to the provisions of this compact.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), internal modification, remodeling, change in use or repair of a structure housing gaming under a nonrestricted license is not a project and does not require the review or approval of the agency.

(3) Internal modification, remodeling, change in use or repair of areas open to the public use within a structure housing gaming under a nonrestricted license which alone or in combination with any other such modification, remodeling, change in use or repair will increase the total portion of those areas which are used for gaming by more than the product of the total base area, as defined below, in square feet existing on or approved before August 4, 1980, multiplied by 15 percent constitutes a project and is subject to all of the provisions of this compact relating to projects. For purposes of this paragraph and the determination required by subdivision (g), base area means all of the area within a structure housing gaming under a nonrestricted license which may be open to public use, whether or not gaming is actually conducted or carried on in that area, except retail stores, convention centers and meeting rooms, administrative offices, kitchens, maintenance and storage areas, rest rooms, engineering and mechanical rooms, accounting rooms and counting rooms.

(g) In order to administer and enforce the provisions of subdivisions (d), (e) and (f), the State of Nevada, through its appropriate planning or regulatory agency, shall require the owner or licensee of a structure housing gaming under a nonrestricted license to provide:

(1) Documents containing sufficient information for the Nevada agency to establish the following relative to the structure:

(A) The location of its external walls;

(B) Its total cubic volume;

(C) Within its external walls, the area in square feet open or approved for public use and the area in square feet devoted to or approved for the private use of guests on May 4, 1979;

(D) The amount of surface area of land under the structure; and

(E) The base area as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) in square feet existing on or approved before August 4, 1980.

(2) An informational report whenever any internal modification, remodeling, change in use, or repair will increase the total portion of the areas open to public use which is used for gaming.

The Nevada agency shall transmit this information to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

(h) Gaming conducted pursuant to a restricted gaming license is exempt from review by the agency if it is incidental to the primary use of the premises.

(i) The provisions of subdivisions (d) and (e) are intended only to limit gaming and related activities as conducted within a gaming establishment, or construction designed to permit the enlargement of such activities, and not to limit any other use of property zoned for commercial use or the accommodation of tourists, as approved by the agency.

(j) Legal actions arising out of or alleging a violation of the provisions of this compact, of the regional plan or of an ordinance or regulation of the agency or of a permit or a condition of a permit issued by the agency are governed by the following provisions:

(1) This subdivision applies to:

(A) Actions arising out of activities directly undertaken by the agency.

(B) Actions arising out of the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license or other entitlement for use by the agency.

(C) Actions arising out of any other act or failure to act by any person or public agency.

Such legal actions may be filed and the provisions of this subdivision apply equally in the appropriate courts of California and Nevada and of the United States.

(2) Venue lies:

(A) If a civil or criminal action challenges an activity by the agency or any person which is undertaken or to be undertaken upon a parcel of real property, in the state or federal judicial district where the real property is situated.

(B) If an action challenges an activity which does not involve a specific parcel of land (such as an action challenging an ordinance of the agency), in any state or federal court having jurisdiction within the region.

(3) Any aggrieved person may file an action in an appropriate court of the State of California or Nevada or of the United States alleging noncompliance with the provisions of this compact or with an ordinance or regulation of the agency. In the case of governmental agencies, "aggrieved person" means the Tahoe Regional planning Agency or any state, federal or local agency. In the case of any person other than a governmental agency who challenges an action of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, "aggrieved person" means any person who has appeared, either in person, through an authorized representative, or in writing, before the agency at an appropriate administrative hearing to

register objection to the action which is being challenged, or who had good cause for not making such an appearance.

(4) A legal action arising out of the adoption or amendment of the regional plan or of any ordinance or regulation of the agency, or out of the granting or denial of any permit, shall be commenced within 60 days after final action by the agency. All other legal actions shall be commenced within 65 days after discovery of the cause of action.

(5) In any legal action filed pursuant to this subdivision which challenges an adjudicatory act or decision of the agency to approve or disapprove a project, the scope of judicial inquiry shall extend only to whether there was prejudicial abuse of discretion. Prejudicial abuse of discretion is established if the agency has not proceeded in a manner required by law or if the act or decision of the agency was not supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. In making such a determination the court shall not exercise its independent judgment on evidence but shall only determine whether the act or decision was supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. In any legal action filed pursuant to this subdivision which challenges a legislative act or decision of the agency (such as the adoption of the regional plan and the enactment of implementing ordinances), the scope of the judicial inquiry shall extend only to the questions of whether the act or decision has been arbitrary, capricious or lacking substantial evidentiary support or whether the agency has failed to proceed in a manner required by law.

(6) The provisions of this subdivision do not apply to any legal proceeding pending on the date when this subdivision becomes effective. Any such legal proceeding shall be conducted and concluded under the provisions of law which were applicable prior to the effective date of this subdivision.

(7) The security required for the issuance of a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction based upon an alleged violation of this compact or any ordinance, plan, rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto is governed by the rule or statute applicable to the court in which the action is brought unless the action is brought by a public agency or political subdivision to enforce its own rules, regulations and ordinances in which case no security shall be required.

(k) The agency shall monitor activities in the region and may bring enforcement actions in the region to ensure compliance with the regional plan and adopted ordinances, rules, regulations and policies. If it is found that the regional plan, or ordinances, regulations and policies are not being enforced by a local jurisdiction, the agency may bring action in a court of competent jurisdiction to ensure compliance.

(l) Any person who violates any provision of this compact or of any ordinance or regulation of the agency or of any condition of approval imposed by the agency is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars ($5,000). Any such person is subject to an additional civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars ($5,000) per day, for each day on which such a violation persists. In imposing the penalties authorized by this subdivision, the court shall consider the nature of the violation and shall impose a greater penalty if it was willful or resulted from gross negligence than if it resulted from inadvertence or simple negligence.

(m) The agency is hereby empowered to initiate, negotiate and participate in contracts and agreements among the local governmental authorities of the region, or any other intergovernmental contracts or agreements authorized by state or federal law.

(n) Each intergovernmental contract or agreement shall provide for its own funding and staffing, but this shall not preclude financial contributions from the local authorities concerned or from supplementary sources.

(o) Every record of the agency, whether public or not, shall be open for examination to the Legislature and Controller of the State of California and the Legislative Auditor of the State of Nevada.

(p) Approval by the agency of any project expires 3 years after the date of final action by the agency or the effective date of the amendments to this compact, whichever is later, unless construction is begun within that time and diligently pursued thereafter, or the use or activity has commenced. In computing the 3-year period any period of time during which the project is the subject of a legal action which delays or renders impossible the diligent pursuit of that project shall not be counted. Any license, permit or certificate issued by the agency which has an expiration date shall be extended by that period of time during which the project is the subject of such legal action as provided in this subdivision.

(q) The governing body shall maintain a current list of real property known to be available for exchange with the United States or with other owners of real property in order to facilitate exchanges of real property by owners of real property in the region.

ARTICLE VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

(a) The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency when acting upon matters that have a significant effect on the environment shall:

(1) Utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in planning and in decisionmaking which may have an impact on man's environment;

(2) Prepare and consider a detailed environmental impact statement before deciding to approve or carry out any project. The detailed environmental impact statement shall include the following:

(A) The significant environmental impacts of the proposed project;

(B) Any significant adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the project be implemented;

(C) Alternatives to the proposed project;

(D) Mitigation measures which must be implemented to assure meeting standards of the region;

(E) The relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity;

(F) Any significant irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed project should it be implemented; and

(G) The growth-inducing impact of the proposed project;

(3) Study, develop and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action for any project which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources;

(4) Make available to States, counties municipalities, institutions and individuals, advice and information useful in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of the region's environment; and

(5) Initiate and utilize ecological information in the planning and development of resource-oriented projects.

(b) Prior to completing an environmental impact statement, the agency shall consult with and obtain the comments of any federal, state or local agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved. Copies of such statement and the comments and views of the appropriate federal, state and local agencies which are authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards shall be made available to the public and shall accompany the project through the review processes. The public shall be consulted during the environmental impact statement process and views shall be solicited during a public comment period not to be less than 60 days.

(c) Any environmental impact statement required pursuant to this article need not repeat in its entirety any information or data which is relevant to such a statement and is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public, such as information contained in an environmental impact report prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act or a federal environmental impact statement prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. However, such information or data shall be briefly described in the environmental impact statement and its relationship to the environmental impact statement shall be indicated.

In addition, any person may submit information relative to a proposed project which may be included, in whole or in part, in any environmental impact statement required by this article.

(d) In addition to the written findings specified by agency ordinance to implement the regional plan, the agency shall make either of the following written findings before approving a project for which an environmental impact statement was prepared:

(1) Changes or alterations have been required in or incorporated into such project which avoid or reduce the significant adverse environmental effects to a less than significant level; or

(2) Specific considerations, such as economic, social or technical, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives discussed in the environmental impact statement on the project.

A separate written finding shall be made for each significant effect identified in the environmental impact statement on the project. All written findings must be supported by substantial evidence in the record.

(e) The agency may charge and collect a reasonable fee from any person proposing a project subject to the provisions fo this compact in order to recover the estimated costs incurred by the agency in preparing an environmental impact statement under this article.

(f) The agency shall adopt by ordinance a list of classes of projects which the agency has determined will not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore will be exempt from the requirement for the preparation of an environmental impact statement under this article. Prior to adopting the list, the agency shall make a written finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that each class of projects will not have a significant effect on the environment.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

(a) On or before September 30 of each calendar year the agency shall establish the amount of money necessary to support its activities for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing July 1 of the following year. The agency shall apportion $75,000 of this amount among the counties within the region on the same ratio to the total sum required as the full cash valuation of taxable property within the region in each county bears to the total full cash valuation of taxable property within the region. In addition, each county within the region in California shall pay $18,750 to the agency and each county within the region in Nevada, including Carson City, shall pay $12,500 to the agency, from any funds available therefore. The State of California and the State of Nevada may pay to the agency by July 1, of each year any additional sums necessary to support the operations of the agency pursuant to this compact. If additional funds are required, the agency shall make a request for the funds to the States of California and Nevada. Requests for state funds must be apportioned two-thirds from California and one-third from Nevada. Money appropriated shall be paid within 30 days.

(b) The agency may fix and collect reasonable fees for any services rendered by it.

(c) The agency shall submit an itemized budget to the states for review with any request for state funds, shall be strictly accountable to any county in the region and the states for all funds paid by them to the agency and shall be strictly accountable to all participating bodies for all receipts and disbursement.

(d) The agency is authorized to receive gifts, donations, subventions, grants, and other financial aids and funds; but the agency may not own land except as provided in subdivision (i) of Article III.

(e) The agency shall not obligate itself beyond the moneys due under this article for its support from the several

counties and the states for the current fiscal year, plus any moneys on hand or irrevocably pledged to its support from other sources. No obligation contracted by the agency shall bind either of the party states or any political subdivision thereof.

ARTICLE IX. TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

(a) The Tahoe transportation district is hereby established as a special purpose district. The boundaries of the district are coterminous with those of the region.

(b) The business of the district shall be managed by a board of directors consisting of:

(1) One member of the county board of supervisors of each of the counties of El Dorado and Placer;

(2) One member of the city council of the City of South Lake Tahoe;

(3) One member each of the board of county commissioners of Douglas County and of Washoe County;

(4) One member of the board of supervisors of Carson City.

(c) The vote of at least four of the directors must agree to take action. If at least four votes in favor of an action are not cast, an action of rejections shall be deemed to have been taken.

(d) The Tahoe transportation district may in accordance with the adopted transportation plan:

(1) Own and operate a public transportation system to the exclusion of all other publicly owned transportation systems in the region.

(2) Acquire upon mutually agreeable terms any public transportation system or facility owned by a county, city or special purpose district or any

privately owned transportation system or facility within the region.

(3) Hire the employees of existing public transportation systems that are acquired by the district without loss of benefits to the employees, bargain collectively with employee organizations, and extend pension and other collateral benefits to employees.

(4) Fix the rates and charges for transit services provided pursuant to this subdivision.

(5) Issue revenue bonds and other evidence of indebtedness.

(6) By resolution, determine and propose for adoption a tax for the purpose of obtaining services of the district. The tax proposed must be general and of uniform operation throughout the region, and may not be graduated in any way. The district is prohibited from imposing an ad valorem tax, a tax measured by gross or net receipts on business, a tax or charge that is assessed against people or vehicles as they enter or leave the region, and any tax, direct or indirect, on gaming tables and devices.

Any such proposition must be submitted to the voters of the district and shall become effective upon approval of a majority of the voters voting on the proposition. The revenues from any such tax must be used for the services for which it was imposed, and for no other purpose.

(7) Provide service from inside the region to convenient airport, railroad and interstate bus terminals without regard to the boundaries of the region.

(e) The Legislatures of the States of California and Nevada may, by substantively identical enactments, amend this aricle.

ARTICLE X. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) It is intended that the provisions of this compact shall be reasonably and liberally construed to effectuate the purposes thereof. Except as provided in subdivision (c), the provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any participating state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state participating therein, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining state and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

(b) The agency shall have such additional power and duties as may hereafter be delegated or imposed upon it from time to time by the action of the Legislature of either state concurred in by the Legislature of the other.

(c) A state party to this compact may withdraw therefrom by enacting a statute repealing the compact. Notice of withdrawal shall be communicated officially and in writing to the Governor of the other state and to the agency administrators. This provision is not severable, and if it is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, no other provision of this compact shall be binding upon the State of Nevada or the State of California.

(d) No provision of this compact shall have any effect upon the allocation, distribution or storage of interstate waters or upon any appropriate water right.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of agriculture and the heads of other appropriate agencies are authorized, upon the request of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, to cooperate with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency in all respects compatible with carrying out the normal duties of their agencies.

Sec. 3. The consent to the compact by the United States is subject to the condition that the President may appoint a nonvoting representative of the United States to the governing body of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Sec. 4. Any additional powers conferred on the agency pursuant to article X, section 1(b) of the compact shall not be exercised unless consented to by the Congress.

Sec. 5. Nothing contained in this Act or in the compact consented to shall in any way affect the powers, rights, or obligations of the United States, or the applicability of any law or regulation of the United States in, over or to the region or waters which are the subject of the compact, or in any way affect rights owned or held by or for Indians or Indian tribes subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Sec. 6. The right is hereby reserved by the Congress or any of its standing committees to require the disclosure and furnishing of such information and data by or concerning the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency as is deemed appropriate by the Congress or such committee.

Sec. 7. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved December 19, 1980.